

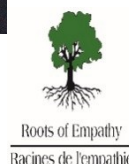
IRVINESTOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Principal
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DECEMBER 2022

Dear Parent,

ETI

On Wednesday 30th November we had a visit from Mr Blevins our district inspector. He spent the day in school talking to us and observed lessons in four classrooms. He also talked to a group of P7 pupils about their school experiences. He was very impressed- his feedback was very positive. His comments mentioned the motivated, engaged, well-behaved pupils and the highly skilled effective teachers. He also commented on how well the school looked. Thank you to all our pupils and the staff team. We are delighted and very proud of our school.

SANTA RUN

Sustrans promoted **The Daily Mile NI Santa Run** on **Friday, 2nd December 2022**.

As we are a Sustrans school we took part in this special event. Pupils wore their own clothes, a Christmas jumper or Santa Hat (if they had them) and their teachers brought them out to walk, jog or run their way around the school grounds for at least 15 mins during the day.

COMPETITION WINNERS

Wee Critters recently ran an 'Animals in Autumn' themed competition on the C2K Junior Newsdesk. More than 900 school children entered the competition. Isabella Crozier P3, was one of the winners of the competition with her amazing picture of a fat-tailed lemur! Isabella has won an hour-long interactive animal education session for her class which has been booked for January. Lexie Bradshaw P4 was highly commended in the same competition.

We had fantastic success in the **Credit Union Art Competition** this year. Congratulations to all the prize winners below.

7 years and under	8-10 years	Additional needs	Additional needs
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		7 years and under	8-10 years
1 st Isabella Crozier 2 nd Cal Fallis 3 rd Robyn Lindsay	1 st Ciara McCusker 2 nd Lexie Bradshaw 3 rd Brooke Carty	1 st Ava-Isabella McArdle 3 rd Mabel Hetherington	1 st Tyler Carty 2 nd Noah McArdle

Ciara McCusker won a competition and has decided to donate her prize of a tree to the school's Eco Team. Thank you, Ciara.

Kim McKevlin has won many awards recently for her Irish Dancing. She was part of a team of six girls who won third place with their Fairy Reel in the World Championships held recently in Dublin. Since that Kim has got a third place, a fifth and two first places in other competitions. Well done Kim and keep dancing!

WALK UP THE HILL WEDNESDAYS

Thank you for your support on our walk up the hill Wednesdays. These small efforts are to help encourage our pupils to adopt a healthy lifestyle and increase their level of exercise.

CHRISTMAS

This year we are having our P1-P4 Christmas show in school on Tuesday 13th December at 7p.m. and on Wednesday 14th December at 10 am. Our Key Stage 2 pupils will not be involved in the P1-P4 show unless they are a member of the school choir. Instead, Key Stage 2 will host a Christmas Carol Service on Monday 19th December at 7p.m. The school choir will also sing at the Carol Service.

Tickets are **sold out** for Tuesday 13th December, but some are still available for Wednesday 14th and Monday 19th £3 adult, £2 children. Gary our professional videographer will professionally record a DVD of the P1-4 production which will be sold at a cost of £10. The Carol Service will also be recorded and added to the DVD and Year 1 children will share their Christmas Santa list as usual.

We are hoping that Santa will come and visit us before the end of term. P5-P7 were away last Thursday to the Millennium Forum to see Cinderella. P1-P4 are going to a Christmas show in the Ardhoven Theatre on Thursday 8th December. P7 will visit Florencecourt House Victorian Christmas Thursday 8th December. A charity Christmas Jumper Day will be held on Friday 16th December. Pupils are asked to bring a **minimum donation of £1**. This year money raised on the Christmas Jumper Day will go to the **N.I. Air Ambulance**.

Microsoft word is available to download onto your child's laptop for free. If you would like information about this, please let us know and we can send you a help sheet which explains the process step by step.

SICKNESS

Please see PHA chart with guidance regarding how long to keep your child off school. It is really important that children attend when they are well, but also important to follow the guidelines overleaf, particularly with something as infectious as vomiting and diarrhoea.



Public Health
Agency

Do I need to keep my child off school?

Chicken Pox At least 5 days from onset of rash and until all spots have crusted over	Conjunctivitis No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Diarrhea &/or Vomiting 48 hours from last episode	Respiratory Illness (e.g colds & flu) Can return when no longer have a high temperature and well enough	Glandular Fever No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed		
Hand, foot & mouth No need to stay off if well enough, but school or nursery should be informed	Impetigo Until lesions are crusted & healed or 48 hours after commencing antibiotics	Head Lice No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Measles 4 days from onset of rash	Mumps 5 days from onset of swelling		German Measles (Rubella) 5 days from onset of rash
Scarlet Fever 24 hours after commencing antibiotics	Scabies Until after first treatment	Slapped Cheek No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Threadworms No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Tonsillitis Can return when no longer have a temperature and well enough, school or nursery should be informed		Whooping Cough 48 hours after commencing antibiotics

Use this guide to find out when they should stay off, and when they can go back if they are well enough to do so.

PTA

Thank you to all new parents who have joined the PTA and to Mrs Gray and Mrs Woods who have taken over as teacher representatives. It is great to see the PTA has organised a Christmas Disco for P1-4 and a Christmas Movie evening for P5-7 on Thursday 15th December. The disco will be 4-5pm and the movie starts at 5-6.30pm and a tuck shop will be available. Both the disco and the movie night will cost £1 per child payable at the door.

The P.T.A. are organising a Christmas draw and more details will follow soon.

The PTA would like to encourage you to name our school P.T.A. on the easy fundraising website - easyfundraising.org.uk

With no expense on our part, every time you shop on-line, money is raised for school. Donations are available through 3,700 on-line brands and retailers. Check out the website and /or download the mobile app and choose Irvinestown Primary School Parent Teachers Association. Thank you to all who have signed up so far.

Thank you to those of you who supported the Royal British Legion Poppy appeal.



Thanks to Molly Bonner and Bailie Cobane who laid the wreath at Derryvullen Church on Sunday 13th November on behalf of our school. We are very proud of both Molly and Bailie. Thank you!

ASSEMBLIES

Thank you to P4, P6 and P1 for leading assemblies in November. Thank you to all the parents and friends who came along.

Information for Y7

Some P7 sat their GL and AQE tests in November. They worked really hard to prepare and we wish them every success for their results which are out on Saturday 4 February 2023.

The application process for Post-Primary will be on-line again. The portal opens at 12 noon on Wednesday 1st February 2023 and closes at 4pm on Thursday 23rd February 2023.

More information will follow next term on open evenings, criteria for post-primary schools and how to apply for Post-Primary place for September 2023.

CASH FOR CLOBBER

Thank you to all of you who brought in clothes for the Clash for Clobber. A final figure has not been received but it should be around £186.

SWITCHING ON THE TREE LIGHTS

Thank you to the school choir who sang with St Pauls PS in a joint choir at the switching on of the tree lights in Irvinestown.

OPEN DAY

This year we are planning to hold an Open Day in school for parents of prospective pupils. This will be an opportunity for prospective pupils and parents to come along and see our school. It will be held on Tuesday 10th January 2023 between 3.30pm and 4.30pm, the day the portal opens for applications. As well as a face-to-face event this year, we will also produce a virtual Open Day, which will be uploaded onto our website before the Christmas holidays. This was extremely well received last year, and many have said we should keep this

going. The online Open Day presentation will include a tour of the school, information about school and also some input from the children. We would appreciate if you could let us know of any pre-school children that we could put on our mailing list. See proforma below.

DIGITAL ADMISSION APPLICATIONS FOR CHILDREN STARTING P1 IN SEPTEMBER 2021

The Education Authority (EA) uses an online application process for admissions for primary school. A portal for places for the September 2023 intake in which parents can apply online for a place is currently being updated. The Go Live date for the new digital admissions is **Tuesday 10th January 2023 at 12 Noon**. The closing time and date for applications will be **12 Noon on 27th January 2023**. Applications after 27th January will be considered as late.

FLU VACCINES

Flu vaccines will take place on Tuesday 6th December.

SCHOOL SWIMMING PROGRAMME

Our swimming programme will commence on Wednesday 11th January 2023 with Year 5. Swimming costs remain at £3 per session as the PTA will cover transport costs.

PERIOD DIGNITY

There has been a great drive in the EA about supporting girls with their periods. Mrs Stewart is our period dignity officer. We have supplies in school and please let your daughters know that they can go to Mrs Stewart or any member of staff if they need support.

SCHOOL CHRISTMAS DINNER

The Annual Christmas dinner is on Christmas Jumper Day - Friday 16th December. Please order before Friday 9th to facilitate the kitchen staff. The dinner is paid for on Monday 12th as part of weekly dinner money.

END OF TERM

School closes early on Wednesday 21st December. **Please note there will be no school dinner, breakfast or snack on that day.**

We will be dismissing the children at the following times to aim to reduce congestion.

- Year 1 -3 and their siblings will be dismissed from the pick-up point at the front as usual at **11.30 a.m.**
- Year 4-7 and their siblings will be dismissed from the pick-up point at the front as usual at **11.45 a.m.**

Please note the change in time due to no school dinner.

EA transport will NOT be available at home time. It is your responsibility to ensure your childcare provider i.e. Active Allsorts / Treetops is available to collect at this time.

RETURN TO SCHOOL

Pupils will return to school on **Friday 6th January 2023**. Do not send dinner Money to school on the first day back. Just leave all monies due until Monday 9th.

Dinner money £2.60 a day or £13.00 per week - Paid at beginning of week.

Milk money for the Spring Term will cost £13.00.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support and wish you and your family a very "Healthy and Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year."

Yours sincerely,

JE Read (Mrs)
Principal

Pre-school children that may be interested in attending our school in September 2023

Name	
Contact Address & Telephone number - If possible	
Name	
Contact Address & Telephone number - If possible	
Name	

Contact Address & Telephone number - If possible	
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Tickets:

I require the following tickets and enclose the £3 per adult ticket, £2 per child.

		No of tickets	Total
P1-P4 Tuesday 13 th - evening 7pm	SOLD OUT		
P1-P4 Wednesday 14 th - morning 10 a.m.			
Carol Service Monday 19 th December - evening 7 pm			

I have enclosed £

DVD ORDERING FORM

Name of child:

I require 1 copy and enclosed payment of £ (£10 per copy)

Signature:

.....

END OF TERM

I will collect/organise collection of _____
 from school on the last day of term (Wed 21st Dec) at the allocated time between
 11.30 - 12.00pm.

OR

My child (Y5-7) _____ has permission to walk
 to.....

Signed _____ (Parent)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

ASC AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

SDD STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY - STAFF ONLY AT SCHOOL

UPDATES WILL FOLLOW EACH MONTH

DECEMBER				
			1 ASC CHOIR Y4-7 Musical Pathways P1-4 MILLENNIUM FORUM CINDERELLA P5-7	2 Santa run Non uniform Ulster Orchestra workshop P3-7
				SAT 3 AQE PAPER 3
5 ASC COOKERY P4	6 ASC BASIC SKILLS FLU JAB ACTION MENTAL HEALTH P5-7	7 ASC SOCCER P4/5 Tom Sweeney	8 ASC CHOIR Y4-7 FLORENCECOURT VICTORIAN CRAFTS P7 P1-4 Ardhowen theatre	9
12	13 ACTION MENTAL HEALTH P6 P1-4 CHRISTMAS SHOW 7p.m.	14 P1-P4 CHRISTMAS SHOW 10 a.m.	15 Musical Pathways P1-P4 Christmas disco / Movie evening	16 Choir singing at Supervalu Christmas Jumper Day Christmas dinner
19 Football P1-4 P5-P7 CAROL SERVICE 7p.m.	20	21 LAST DAY OF TERM! EARLY CLOSING		

